

# ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL



## Religious Education Policy

Date of last review: March 2019

Date of next review: September 2020

Staff Responsible: Jenny Goodsell

Governing Body approval from Standards Committee

Agreed on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

# St Alphege C of E Infant School

## RE Policy

### Rationale

Religious Education at St Alphege plays an important part in furthering the school's aims.

Our RE curriculum seeks to make a major contribution to the spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils by helping them to acquire the knowledge and understanding of Christianity and other major religions represented in Great Britain. Our aspiration for all pupils is that they should be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors to society.

Through this and in the general ethos of the school we seek to promote our mission statement.

*'Loved, Inspired, Shining.'*

### Aims

At St Alphege we encourage pupils to explore their own beliefs whether they are religious or non-religious; building on the children's experiences of life; family, friends and important events.

By introducing pupils to stories, pictures, artefacts and symbols used in religious traditions; to:-

- Enable pupils to develop positive attitudes and be able to reflect on their own lives with greater maturity.
- To ask and explore big questions to do this.
- To enable children to begin to understand and build ethics that foster compassion and resilience to anti-democratic or extremist views.
- To help pupils respond to what they learn enabling them to consider ways in which beliefs, values and traditions might have significance in their own lives.

### Approaches to teaching Religious Education

RE is an exciting curriculum subject so we employ a variety of teaching methods through coverage of the Kent Agreed Syllabus. We also use the Understanding Christianity materials which are focused on enquiry based learning.

These include:

- Visiting places of worship and receiving visitors from faith communities.
- Using art, drama, music and visitors to enrich students' understanding.
- Using pictures, photographs and stories to enhance students' learning.
- Using artifacts to help students develop their understanding of religious beliefs and forms of expression.
- Discussing religious and simple philosophical questions giving reasons for their own beliefs and those of others.
- Developing the use of the internet to promote understanding of religions and beliefs.

### Differentiation and Special Needs

Teaching will be planned in line our Teaching and Learning Values Statement, with explicit differentiation that enables all abilities of children to be challenged and make best progress according to their needs.

### Equal Opportunities

It is important that the contribution of all pupils should be valued in RE lessons. No pupil should feel that they are being discriminated against because of any views that they may express. Pupils' questions, views and opinions should be treated with sensitivity and respect. RE can challenge stereotypes, misinformation and misconceptions about race, gender and religion encouraging a positive attitude to diversity.

## **School Organisation**

In accordance with the structure of the Kent Agreed Syllabus and the Understanding Christianity overview, pupils experience a programme of study with focus on:-

Foundation Stage – Introducing Christianity as the ‘heritage religion’ of the country and the one that most influences schools and community life and building on religions represented among the pupils.

KS1 - Christianity in the main and in addition, Judaism and Hinduism.

## **Assessment, Recording and Reporting**

Assessment in Religious Education will follow the school assessment cycle. Pupils’ progress and attainment in the Kent Agreed Syllabus in AT1 and AT2 will be tracked regularly.

Assessment will be through observation and discussion, recognising the range of skills and attitudes the subject seeks to develop.

## **Monitoring standards of teaching and learning**

Monitoring will take place through review of planning, lesson observations, book scrutiny, learning walks and pupil conferencing. This will follow the school’s monitoring cycle and will be undertaken by the Senior Leadership Team and RE subject leader. The Governing Body and staff from other local Church schools will also feed into monitoring activities.

## **Responsibilities for RE within the school (including school self-evaluation)**

*RE subject Leader:* Miss Jenny Goodsell

*Link governor* Reverend Rachel Webbley

*Senior leadership Team:* Mrs Liz Thomas-Friend (Executive HT), Mrs Jacqui Spinks (HoS)

The RE subject leader will regularly review the policy, the scheme of work and the resources. They will support colleagues and develop their own subject expertise. The subject leader will also develop an action plan for RE in order to maintain standards and improve provision, teaching and learning across the school.

## **Health and Safety**

Due account will be taken of health and safety guidelines and appropriate risk assessments for out of school visits.

## **Right of withdrawal from Religious Education**

We firmly believe that RE is an important subject in the children’s learning. It is a major contributor to the ethos of our school. However, we fully recognise the legal right of parents to withdraw their children from all or any part of RE on the grounds of conscience. We do encourage parents to contact the Headteacher if they have any concerns about RE provision and practice at the school.

## **The legal Position of Religious Education**

RE must be provided for all registered pupils at the school in accordance with Schedule 19 to the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. In Canterbury Diocese, the Diocesan Board of Education recommends that all Church schools follow the Diocesan Schemes of Work which are based on the Kent Locally Agreed Syllabus. This takes account of the 1996 Education Act which requires the syllabus to reflect that the religious traditions of Great Britain are in the main Christian whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of the other principal religions represented in Great Britain. Religious Education is inspected under Section 48 of the Education Act.